

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 073485
ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 /076 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:BSKIRKPATRICK:IW

APPROVED BY AF:TWSEELYE

AF/S:DTIERNEY

CU/AF:DBANDLER

AF/C:GHAMILTON

AF/E:GSCOTT

-----022339Z 040048 /73

R 022149Z APR 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 073485

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS:PDIP, PFOR, IV, US, OEXC, (LEON, ANOMA KANIE)

SUBJECT:CALL OF MFA DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS KANIE ON
AMBASSADOR SEELYE

REF: A) ABIDJAN 1313 B) ABIDJAN 1090

1. IN VIEW OF AMBASSADOR KANIE'S EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
AFTER HIS ARRIVAL ON INTERNATIONAL VISITOR GRANT IN DIS-
CUSSING US POLICY IN AFRICA, DEPARTMENT ARRANGED FOR HIM
TO CALL ON ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY SEELYE ON MARCH 31.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 073485

2. SEELYE EXPRESSED OUR APPRECIATION FOR THE IVORY COAST'S
CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN AFRICAN PROBLEMS AND ALLUDED TO
PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY'S FREQUENT EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH
TOP LEVEL US OFFICIALS. HE NOTED HOUPHOUET'S RECENT LETTER
TO PRESIDENT CARTER OF WHICH KANIE SEEMED UNAWARE. HE TOLD
KANIE THAT WE WERE CONFIDENT THAT USEFUL DIALOGUE BETWEEN
IVORY COAST AND THE UNITED STATES WOULD CONTINUE. HE SAID

THAT THE US AFRICAN CHIEFS OF MISSION CONFERENCE WOULD SHORTLY BE HELD IN ABIDJAN AND THAT HOUPHOUET HAD OFFERED TO HOST A RECEPTION.

3. SEELYE GENERALLY COVERED PROBLEMS IN AFRICA AND THE US POINT OF VIEW FOR KANIE WHO APPEARED APPRECIATIVE. KANIE

EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER SOVIET AND CUBAN ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA, AND SUPPORT FOR US EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE A DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE PARTIES INVOLVED IN THE PROBLEMS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA. WHEN ASKED IF HE BELIEVED THAT SMITH WAS SERIOUS ABOUT HIS UNDERTAKING FOR ZIMBABWEAN INDEPENDENCE, HE PLEADED IGNORANCE ABOUT THE REGION AND THE PEOPLE BUT EXPRESSED THE PERSONAL VIEW THAT SMITH'S PROPOSAL WAS ONLY A TACTIC WHICH AVOIDED ACTION ON THE ESSENTIALS. HE RESPONDED TO DISCUSSION OF INTERNAL POLITICS IN ZIMBABWE BY NOTING THAT THE IVORY COAST LOOKED AT THE SITUATION "FROM A DISTANCE."

4. IN DISCUSSION OF ETHIOPIA, KANIE NOTED THAT IT WAS UNFORUNATE THAT USG HAS LOST INFLUENCE THERE. HE INQUIRED ABOUT ISRAEL'S CONTACTS WITH ETHIOPIA AND WAS TOLD THAT THE ISRAELIS, ALONG WITH A NUMBER OF OTHER COUNTRIES STILL HAD GOOD TIES WITH ETHIOPIA. SEELYE NOTED THAT THE FORMER EMPEROR OF ETHIOPIA HAD UNIFIED THE COUNTRY AND THAT AFTER HE LEFT THE SCENE THE COUNTRY FRAGMENTED. KANIE NOTED THAT HOUPHOUET WAS PLAYING A SIMILAR UNIFYING ROLE IN THE IVORY COAST.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 073485

5. KANIE SAID THAT HE BELIEVED THAT THE US SHOULD INTERVENE IN ZAIRE OR THE COUNTRY WOULD BE LOST. SEELYE COMMENTED THAT THE MILITARY FORCES OF ZAIRE WERE NOT VERY EFFECTIVE AND THAT DIPLOMACY WAS THE BEST ROUTE TO RESOLVE THE PRESENT SITUATION. KANIE STATED THAT BECAUSE OF DIFFERENCES IN THE OAU IT WOULD NOT BE OF MUCH HELP WITH REGARD TO THE SITUATION IN ZAIRE. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT MOBUTU WOULD BE ABANDONED AND SAID THE US MUST HELP HIM IN COOPERATION WITH OTHERS. SEELYE REPLIED THAT IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS IT IS THE PEOPLE OF ZAIRE WHO MUST RESIST BUT THE COUNTRY HAS FEW EFFECTIVE SOLDIERS. KANIE REPLIED THAT THE TROOPS MUST BE CONVINCED TO FIGHT. SEELYE NOTED THE RUMOR THAT MOBUTU MIGHT HIRE MERCENARIES. KANIE RESPONDED THAT MOBUTU SHOULD KNOW THAT MERCENARIES ARE "FINISHED". KANIE SAID THAT HE DID NOT SEE HOW MOBUTU WOULD GET OUT OF THE PRESENT SITUATION. SEELYE STATED THAT HE MIGHT HAVE TO MAKE SOME CONCESSIONS.

6. THE HOUR LONG CONVERSATION ENDED WITH A BRIEF
DISCUSSION OF KANIE'S PROGRAM IN THE US.
VANCE

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Sent Date: 02-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
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